



Senator Aisha Wahab, Chair

Senate Public Safety Committee  
1020 N Street, Room 545  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: Opposition to Senate Bill 1011 (Jones)**

Dear Chair Wahab:

On behalf of All Home, I am writing in strong opposition to Senate Bill 1011 (Jones). SB 1011 would prohibit under state penal code the act of sitting, lying, sleeping, or storing personal property on any street or sidewalk if a homeless shelter is "available" and within 500 feet of any public or private school, open space, or major transit stop.

**All Home is a Bay Area organization that advances regional solutions to homelessness and works to increase the housing security and economic mobility of Californians with the lowest incomes.** This bill runs counter to our work, perpetuates ineffective policy responses to homelessness and promotes false narratives about the most marginalized members of our communities.

Laws that make living on our public streets or sidewalks a crime are ineffective at achieving the goals they are often created for, like (1) reducing the number of people living unsheltered, (2) making houselessness less visible by "holding individuals accountable," and (3) lowering crime rates. **Instead, criminalization drives people into further poverty and keeps people unhoused longer.** Research shows that someone's criminal record, even for misdemeanor "quality of life" crimes like nuisance violations, frequently stands in the way of landlords accepting a tenant application and a housing authority awarding a housing subsidy. Fines or tickets issued to people who are unhoused, which they cannot afford to pay, result in bench warrants and time in jail, poor credit that interferes with a

housing application, and loss of a vehicle acting as home and the only means of transportation to and from work, school, or doctors' appointments. Criminalization is also traumatizing, and makes people more likely to avoid shelter, distrust service providers, get sick, and evade law enforcement. Experts on homelessness in San Diego, including service providers, housing developers, and the San Diego Regional Task Force on Homelessness, strongly opposed the ordinance on which SB 1011 is based.

Criminalization doesn't work, but low-barrier, safe, and service-enriched interim housing paired with a pathway to a permanent home, does. Jurisdictions across the state are effectively helping people to leave street encampments through well-trained outreach teams that build trusting relationships with people with long histories of trauma and connect people to housing. But this work is threatened by proposed cuts to critical housing and homelessness programs in the state budget. SB 1011 is particularly regressive at a time when state programs that address homelessness effectively and humanely face severe cuts or elimination.

Homelessness is solvable with dedicated, concurrent investments in prevention, interim housing and permanent housing with supportive services. On the other hand, SB 1011 not only fails to offer any viable solutions, it is a reactionary response, promoting the same failed policies that keep people unhoused at great costs to local governments, taxpayers, state values, and, most critically, to people who have suffered marginalization, stigma, worsening health, violence, and punishment for conditions they cannot control. For all these reasons I urge your "no" vote on this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brett Andrews". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "B" and "A".

Brett Andrews  
Interim Chief Executive  
All Home